



Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP)

VERP is a National Park Service planning and management framework that focuses on visitor use impacts on visitor experience and park resources. The impacts are attributed to visitor behavior, use levels, types of use, times of use and location of use.

- The General Management Plan (GMP) set interim visitor encounter rates and group sizes for backcountry settings.
- The GMP's interim use limits were intended to be in place until the completion of VERP studies and this Backcountry Management Plan/Environmental Assessment.
- As part of the VERP study, qualitative surveys were conducted with several groups of backcountry visitors during the summer and fall of 2002 and 2003 resulting in the report: "Research to Support Application of the VERP Framework to Backcountry Planning at Zion National Park" June 2004, by Robert E. Manning, Wayne A. Freimund, Jeffery L. Marion.
- Surveys addressed baseline data on visitor use and users and potential indicators of the quality of the visitor experience.
- Data from the surveys helped park staff develop indicators and standards for monitoring visitor experience and effects on park resources.



LaVerkin Creek